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South Carolina Public Service Commission
Docketing Department
101 Executive Center Drive, Suite 100
Columbia, SC 29210
Docket No. 2007-445-A

RE: Docket # 2007-445-A

I would like to thank the commission members for the opportunity to voice my concerns over the proposed regulation to create a new mode of transportation using stretcher vans.

As a healthcare provider, I am very concerned about the care given to patients going by Stretcher vans. Currently non-emergent ambulances take patients to dialysis centers, radiation treatments, chemotherapy and many other treatment centers. These types of patients require certified health care providers for careful monitoring following treatments. Under the new guidelines for stretcher vans, each van would be required to have personnel onboard that was certified in CPR and First Aid only. The vans would also not be required to have additional life saving equipment. It is my opinion that the patients will be the ones that suffer from these changes.

Logisticare and MTM were introduced into South Carolina as brokers between transportation providers and the state. These two private companies are paid by the state on a five year contracted price to provide transportation services. This contracted price includes non-emergent ambulance transportation. It is my understanding that the main reason behind this proposed regulation is to save the state money. If that is the case, does this proposal also show the money that will be taken out of Logisticare and MTM's yearly contract? If not, the brokers will be the only ones benefiting from this new proposal, not the state.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Sommerville, MD

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